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## WHAT MADE YOU APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP ROLE?

I was previously working as a supermarket delivery driver through the pandemic and was looking for a change in career. I had previously worked in maintenance and had been self-employed but had always had an interest in housing and community work. Once I saw the apprenticeship scheme, I welcomed the opportunity to change and begin something very new.

## HOW HAVE YOU FOUND THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING AN APPRENTICE?

My first few weeks of the apprenticeship really bolstered the fact that I had made a great choice. It has enabled me to enhance my transferable skills while being supported to learn how all the services work together, they apply to the service and advice that the council provides to the community daily.

## HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORKING AND STUDYING AT THE SAME TIME?

Amongst the excellent support with training, I have also been enrolled for the CIH level 3 qualification which works alongside my apprenticeship and is a key source of knowledge that is essential for my role at the council. As an apprentice, you spend 3-4 months moving around different services, learning how they work and incorporate into the Stevenage Borough Council housing service. I have one study day a week and, on the job, working. The CIH course is tough due to home working, but their platform works seamlessly, and we are assigned our own tutors and have extra aid from CIH chartered consultancy with a great pool of housing knowledge to share.

## HOW HAS THE APPRENTICESHIP HELPED YOUR CAREER?

Stevenage Borough Council allowed for apprentices to apply internally for posts that we were interested in as long as we could continue the CIH commitments. So, I decided that I wanted to apply for the role of Housing Supply Co-Ordinator within the private rented sector; I was successful in my application and have been apart of Next Step Lets, the council's private rent team since December 2020. As I am no longer an apprentice, I do not move around the services, but I am currently working with other services instead and learning vital knowledge that I apply to my role.

## **WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH CAREER-WISE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?**

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I am currently working to gain as much knowledge from my team and my studies to offer the best advice and service that I can. I plan to pass my CIH course in 2022 and then look to hopefully start planning for a CIH level 4. I would like to remain at the council and gain as much experience I can through support and training. There is a lot of opportunity within the council and I intend to work towards them opportunities and develop my experience and knowledge to the best of my ability.

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP?**

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Apprenticeships are for all individuals. I chose to apply for my apprenticeship to change my career and it has been one of the best decisions that I have made. I find that I have a role that can make beneficial changes in someone's life. Being able to assist the community in a positive way makes my role very rewarding. If you have been considering a change and want something more rewarding and fulfilling, then have faith in your abilities and make the change.